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-- Fig. 1 shows the amino acid (DNA) sequence of a fusion polypeptide H-IL-6 according to the invention. Sequences for the restriction enzyme Sall (GTCGAC), the signal peptide (SEQ ID NO.: 14) (MLAVGCALLAALLAAPGAA) and the linker (SEQ ID NO.: 15) (RGGGGSGGGGSVE) are indicated. The linker links the COOH terminus of human sIL-6R with the NH₂ terminus of human IL-6.--

[Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22, with the following:]

-- Fig. 2 shows the amino acid (DNA) sequence of a fusion polypeptide H-IL-6 according to the invention. Sequences for the restriction enzyme Sall (GTCGAC), the signal peptide (SEQ ID NO.: 14) (MLAVGCALLAALLAAPGAA) and the linker (SEQ ID NO.: 16) (RGGGGSGGGGSVE) are indicated. The linker links the COOH terminus of human sIL-6R with the NH₂ terminus of human IL-6.--